

New Boston Recreation Commission

Subject: Commissioners' Meeting
Date: December 16, 2009
Location: White Buildings

Attendees:

Commissioners: Lee Brown, Kim Borges, Ken Hamel, David Hulick, Jen Martin*

Staff: Mike Sindoni, Mary Barone

Guests: None

* = *absent*

1. Need to work on finances. Met with finance committee. Working to get \$27,760 for maintenance and repairs of facilities. Lee reviewed the details showing the funding sources (town and recreation). Funding from the town needs to supplement recreation sources. Met with selectmen to make the case for facility maintenance. Rec cannot fund both capital and operations at the same time. \$5,000 allocated by the town for maintenance of the common has not been spent. Recreation will have to review fee structures and ear-mark proceeds for specific maintenance projects. Kim has been working with Mike and Mary to update Quickbooks accounting procedures and reporting.
2. The revolving account has been drawn down by infrastructure projects. The Nyquist memorial, the practice field, multiple drainage repairs, infield repair, security cameras, parking lot gravel, scoreboard, grandstand, tennis court repairs, and white building repairs cost \$182,000. Set priorities for 2010. Look at cash flow by month for planning purposes.
3. The school has been asked to defer expansion plans due to the possibility of the acquisition of the Byam land. Since that may be delayed, the school may want the white buildings.
4. The Depot building has some issues. There is coal slag left over from the railroad. This could involve heavy metals. The extent of the problem is unknown. A level 1 assessment costs \$1,600. This will trigger a level 2 review, which involves digging and will cost around \$12,000. Results will have to be revealed to the state, and they can force remediation. The Playground Association has been notified. They have the liability and they have limited resources. They have owned the building since the 1930's when they got it from the B&M Railroad. They have subdivided the property 3 times. Testing water above and below the property is an option to find out if there is anything leeching out of the property, which would cost about \$1,000. Recreation cannot take property if it encumbers the town. Federal funds for remediation or grants to preserve the historic site are possibilities. The town will have to make some decisions in the end. **David made a motion that Recreation inform the selectmen and the Playground Association of its findings and that it take no further steps at this time with regard to the Depot building or its acquisition. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**
5. Historic Society building: The town is getting estimates for renovation. There will probably need to be a warrant article. There are various concepts for the Whipple Library, town hall and the historic society. Town hall has problems in the basement. Rec will have to wait until things shake out before we can figure out what we need to do.
6. Intern proposal: Noel Sagna has an MA in economic development. Interested in recreation activities, but requires payment. The idea is to hire him to conduct a study to benchmark New Boston Recreation against other similar programs. Mary reported that some information is available through the NHRPA. **Lee made a motion to contract with Mr. Sagna to complete a survey as defined by the commissioners and the department comparing the New Boston recreation program with other communities, to be conducted in early 2010 with a budget not to exceed \$1,000. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**
7. Mary reported on a summer camp workshop that she attended. Summer camp is an issue because

attendance at the New Boston program has been on a slow decline. New Boston is relatively expensive compared to other towns. Other programs take all types of children, and some accept kids from other towns. Some kids require aids that the school pays for. David asked Mary to write up her notes with recommendations for improving our procedures and policies. Lee wants ideas for how we can reinvigorate the program. Consider expansion of programming alternatives. One idea is to have exchange programs with other programs for something like an field day. Kim likes theme weeks.

8. Winter carnival will be on January 30th. Mike is open to new ideas. Advertising revenue improved because Mary sent out a letter.
9. A raffle was discussed as a way to promote our programs. Give out raffle tickets for program participation. Award "rec dollars". The program evaluation survey should be used to get feedback. Why did yoga participation fall off? David recommended that the awards be a mixture of soft "rec dollar" awards and real cash gift certificates to local businesses. Ken suggested a "buy 4 get 1 free" approach.
10. The library has some extra loam. It belongs to D&S. Does Rec want it? It could be used for the ballfield at \$12/yd sifted and cleaned. Buy 200 yards funded by the baseball field funds? The market value is \$20 to \$25/yd. We won't need it for 2 years. The group decided to pass on this opportunity.
11. Seniors program: St. Joseph's community services approached Mary. She went to one of their quarterly meetings. They want to work with satellite centers (which is what they consider our program). They are offering to give our seniors "store meals" for emergency situations. Rec would have to keep records.
12. Next meeting: 7pm in the White Buildings, January

David Hulick, Secretary